

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00269 261443Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /082 W
-----261447Z 052235 /46

O R 261400Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3891
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0269

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, UR, GW, US, UK, FR
SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS

REFS: A) BONN 1472 AND B) USBERLIN0268

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BRITISH INTRA-BERLIN MESSAGE
SENT TO BRITISH EMBASSY BONN, SUMMARIZING BERLIN
MISSIONS POSITIONS ON REICHSBAHN FARE INCREASE
REQUESTS:

QUOTE

SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00269 261443Z

REF: USIB NOS 39 40

WE ARE SENDING THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO OUR EMBASSY IN BONN
WHICH I HOPE PROVIDES AN ACCURATE SUMMARY OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED
AT MONDAY S MEETING:

1. THE ALLIES IN BERLIN HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION

TO EMBASSIES IN BONN CONCERNING THE REICHSBAHN REQUEST FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ALLIED MILITARY TRAIN TARIFFS WITH EFFECT FROM 1 FEBRUARY.

2. THE ALLIES ASSUME FROM THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FRG IN BONN THAT THE GDR, IN ADDITION TO RAISING TARIFFS, ARE SEEKING TO ALTER THE CURIOUS SITUATION WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE 1946 WHEREBY THEY ARE IN PRACTICE ONLY REIMBURSED FOR 40 PER CENT OF THE ALLIED FREIGHT TRAFFIC AND RECEIVE NOTHING FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC. THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO AN ATTEMPT TO END THE OCCUPATION PRACTICE WHICH HAS REQUIRED THEM TO BEAR THE FULL COST OF ALLIED PASSENGER TRAINS.

3. WHILST THE EXISTING PRACTICE APPEARS ILLOGICAL AND DISCRIMINATORY, IT IS NEVERTHELESS BASED ON WAR QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. TO CHANGE THIS NOW COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, WHOSE LOGIC IT COULD BE ARGUED TIME HAD ALSO ERODED. THERE MIGHT EVEN BE SPECIFIC AREAS SUCH AS DAMAGE DONE BY ALLIED MILITARY LIAISON MISSIONS IN THE GDR WHERE THE GDR WOULD SEEK FURTHER EROSION AND COMPENSATION IF THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR BID TO CHANGE THE PRACTICE IN RESPECT OF ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS. WE SHOULD ALSO BE CAREFUL OF LIGHTLY HANDING OVER THE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL MONEY WHICH, ONCE THE PRINCIPLE WAS BREACHED, THE EAST MIGHT ARGUE SHOULD BE RETROSPECTIVE FOR ALL THE YEARS SINCE 1946.

4. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT WE SHOULD RESIST ANY CHANGE TO THE EXISTING GROUND RULES BUT SHOW READINESS TO RAISE THE TARIFFS ALREADY PAID ON FREIGHT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PACKAGE IS UNLIKELY TO SATISFY THE EAST BUT SUSPECT THAT THEY WOULD FIND IT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00269 261443Z

DIFFICULT TO REJECT AN APPEAL TO THE STATUS QUO SWEETENED BY A READINESS TO INCREASE THE REVENUE FOR FREIGHT. EVEN IF WE EVENTUALLY HAD TO CONCEDE MORE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO HARM IN SPINNING OUT A DISCUSSION WHERE TO SOME EXTENT THE EAST WILL BE DEMANDEUR.

5. OUR PARTNER FOR DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPLES AND FOR ANY WRITTEN EXCHANGE SHOULD BE THE RUSSIANS SINCE THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WAS QUADRIPARTITE. FOR FIXING THE RATE OF ANY INCREASE WE SHOULD AIM AT A BUNDESBAHN/REICHSBAHN NEGOTIATION NOT LEAST BECAUSE THE EVENTUAL BILL WOULD HAVE TO BE MET BY THE FEDERAL GERMANS. WITH THIS IN MIND WE WOULD ENVISAGE THE FOLLOWING TIME-TABLE:

(A) BEFORE 1 FEBRUARY THE ALLIES WOULD ADDRESS THE REICHSBAHN IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: WITH REGARD TO THE REICHSBAHN REQUEST FOR AS INCREASE IN THE TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS, THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES WOULD POINT OUT THAT THESE TARIFFS ARE FIXED BY QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. IF THE REICHSBAHN WISH TO PURSUE THIS QUESTION IT SHOULD BE RAISED THROUGH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES:

(B) IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THE ALLIED PROTOCOL OFFICER WOULD IN INFORM HIS SOVIET OPPOSITE NUMBER OF (A) ABOVE STATING THAT WE WERE READY TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH THE RUSSIANS IF AND WHEN THEY SO WISHED. HE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT ANY SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD PROBABLY BEST TAKE PLACE AT ALLIED POLAD/KHOTULEV LEVEL.

(C) IF THE RUSSIANS DID THEN APPROACH US SUBSEQUENTLY WE SHOULD LEAVE IT TO THEM TO STATE EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS THE GDR REALLY WANTED. ASSUMING THAT THEY THEN MADE CLEAR THAT, IN ADDITION TO TARIFF INCREASES, THE GDR WISHED THE MONEY FOR ALLIED PASSENGER TRAINS TO BE PAID OVER TO THE REICHSBAHN, WE WOULD SPEAK IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: WE WOULD EXPRESS OUR CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR MAINTAINING THE PRESENT GROUND RULES. THESE RULES WERE PART OF THE COMPLEX QUADRIpartite INFRA-STRUCTURE OF BERLIN AND IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO TAMPER WITH THEM. THERE WERE OTHER AREAS (EG SPANDAU AND THE BASC ACCOMMODATION IN THE ACA BUILDING) WHERE THE RUSSIANS ENJOYED PHYSICAL FACILITIES FOR WHICH THEY PAID NOTHING. WE APPRECIATED, HOWEVER, WHERE PAYMENT FOR ALLIED TRAINS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USBERL 00269 261443Z

INDEED MADE(IE 40 PER CENT OF THE FREIGHT TRAIN COSTS) THERE WAS A CASE FOR AN INCREASE AND WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS CONCERNED, NAMELY THE BUNDESBAHN AND THE REICHSBAHN. THESE TWO BODIES SHOULD ACT AS OUR AGENTS AND WHATEVER THEY AGREED SHOULD THEN BE RESUBMITTED TO A QUADRIpartite FORUM FOR APPROVAL. ANY EXCHANGE IN WRITING CONFIRMING THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE IN QUADRIpartite FORM.

UNQUOTE

DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN RAILROAD ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770028-0581
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770115/aaaaamsc.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 99d538d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 1472, 77 USBERLIN 268
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3491113
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GC, UR, GE, US, UK, FR
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99d538d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009